



Reid-Kennedy Amnesty = Massive Increases in Spending

“S. 2611, if enacted, would be the largest expansion of the welfare state in 35 years”- Heritage Foundation

At a hearing today, the House Ways and Means Committee is examining the impact of border security and immigration on many of America’s most important social service programs including Social Security and Medicare. In May, [a report by the Heritage Foundation analyst Robert Rector](#) examined the impact that the Senate’s amnesty proposal could have on welfare spending. It found:

Amnesty Will Substantially Raise Welfare Spending

“...The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (CIRA, S. 2611) would provide amnesty to 9 to 10 million illegal immigrants and put them on a path to citizenship. Once these individuals become citizens, the net additional cost to the federal government of benefits for these individuals will be around **\$16 billion** per year. Further, once an illegal immigrant becomes a citizen, he has the right to bring his parents to live in the U.S. The parents, in turn, may become citizens. The long-term cost of government benefits to the parents of 10 million recipients of amnesty could be **\$30 billion** per year or more. In the long run, S. 2611, if enacted, would be the largest expansion of the welfare state in 35 years.”

“Historically, recent immigrants were less likely to receive welfare than native-born Americans. ... By the late 1990s immigrant households were fifty percent more likely to receive means-tested aid than native-born households.”

“Federal and state governments currently spend over \$500 billion per year on means-tested welfare benefits. Illegal aliens are ineligible for most federal welfare benefits but can receive some assistance through programs such as Medicaid. In addition, native-born children of illegal immigrant parents are

citizens and are eligible for all relevant federal welfare benefits. ... (A)mnesty would greatly increase the receipt of welfare, government benefits, and social services."

(Source: "Amnesty and Continued Low Skill Immigration Will Substantially Raise Welfare Costs and Poverty," Robert Rector; Heritage Foundation Backgrounder; May 12, 2006)

**House Republican Conference Press Office
202a Cannon HOB
(202) 226-9000**